

From: [Gray, David](#)
To: [Coleman, Sam](#); [Edlund, Carl](#)
Subject: Orphan Containers
Date: Thursday, October 12, 2017 8:02:00 AM
Attachments: [Letter to EPA Admin Pruitt Regarding US Oil Recovery Superfund Site.pdf](#)
[Bravo Container Inventory.pdf](#)
[Harvey - EPA Region 6 HazEval Map BRAVO 20170929 11x17.pdf](#)
[Harvey - EPA Region 6 HazEval Map ALPHA 20170929 11x17.pdf](#)
[Harvey - EPA Region 6 HazEval Map CHARLIE 20170929 11x17.pdf](#)

Sam –

Congressman Green letter (attached) also asked about the 517 orphaned containers. We have created maps to show their locations of all orphaned containers in each branch (attached) , and an inventory of the 517 containers (attached) he asked about. We are still working on the maps.

Here is our current status report from Friday (10/6).

Reconnaissance/Orphan Containers: The TCEQ continues to lead in monitoring facilities that have reported spills. Unified Command has completed initial hazmat reconnaissance and recovery activities associated with hurricane impacts. Orphan containers, which include drums and tanks, found floating in or washed up near waterways continue to be gathered, sorted and grouped by type, prior to shipping them off for safe, proper treatment and disposal. **All branches of the Unified Command have collected over 1,088 orphan containers.** USCG and Texas General Land Office will continue to complete Vessel Recovery activities.

On 9/24 EPA issued this clarification to follow up questions from news outlets regarding an AP story.

Greetings,

It appears that FEMA combined information from our original submission in its summary release on Friday that has created some confusion in reporting. I wanted to share this clarification with you.

We wrote:

Hurricane Harvey Texas Response and Recovery

EPA and TCEQ First 30 Days Roll-Up of Actions (EPA fully integrated with Texas Commission on Environmental Quality in Unified Command to support these actions.)

- *Drinking Water Assessments:*
 - o *625 on-site drinking water assessments completed*
- *Waste Water Assessments:*
 - o *441 on-site waste water assessments completed*
- *517 orphan containers recovered for proper storage*
- *43 National Priorities List Superfund Sites assessments completed*

FEMA wrote:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), working with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, completed 625 drinking water assessments and 441 waste water assessments. The agency conducted assessments of 43 Superfund sites and recovered 517 containers of unidentified, potentially hazardous material.

You can read our latest update from Friday Sept 22 on our website at www.epa.gov/hurricane-harvey. We have also released the latest on Superfund sites and many individual site summaries.

Regarding orphan containers. EPA and our response partners have been collecting containers orphaned after the hurricane. We have been reporting these activities. Here is a copy of that update. These are not related to Superfund clean ups.

Reconnaissance/Orphan Containers: The TCEQ continues to lead in monitoring facilities that have reported spills. Unified Command has completed reconnaissance activities associated with hurricane impacts. Orphan containers, which include drums and tanks, found floating in or washed up near waterways continue to be gathered, sorted and grouped by type, prior to shipping them off for safe, proper treatment and disposal. All branches of the Unified Command have collected over 980 orphan containers. The Unified Command is preparing collected oil and hazardous materials for proper disposal. Disposal should be completed within the next three weeks. USCG and Texas General Land Office will continue to complete Vessel Recovery activities.

Best,

David

Congressman Green asked for information about the 517 containers.